

JUNE 5, 1961

Chicago, Illinois

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-

A Meeting of Minds: 8:00 PM

BARBER CITES THE CIA

HARRY HOMERWOOD AND THE PANEL WERE SEEN AT A LONG
TABLE IN THE STUDIO.

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Host: Harry Homerwood, Newsweek Magazine.

Panel: Dr. Robert Fress, dean, University College, DePaul University;
William H. Rentschler, president, Stevens Candy Kitchen; and Dr. Nellie
Barber, professor of political science, University of Illinois.

The panel was talking about the recent Cuban invasion.

Homerwood: "Let's talk about the Cuba debacle, as you correctly name it.
What can we possibly -- what can Kennedy possibly do here? Castro is not going
to die of the vine. This man has enormous power now."

BARBER: "Well there's no reason, as far as I can see, why we can't do
more of what we did before only do it better. It is obviously the same plot.
There's no gainsaying that."

HOMERWOOD: "Yes."

BARBER: "I'm not convinced that the CIA is as stupid as some people have
made it out to be in the last few weeks. I spent some time in the intelligence
service during World War II and I know that it's very easy to say that intel-
ligence muffed this particular job but perhaps I have a sort of proprietary in-
terest in intelligence. I'm not convinced they're quite as dumb as they've been
made out to be and I'd like to think that the CIA, whether it's under Dulles or
somebody else, is going to be able to do a better job of infiltration. They're
downright fine at cloak and dagger stuff and so on and it's been done before."

HOMERWOOD: "You realize, of course, Doctor, that most of America was
shocked that we were even doing any of this at all."

BARBER: "I was very happy to know that some of it had been going on and I
just wish to heaven that a lot more of it had been going on and I hope a lot more
has been going on there and behind the Iron Curtain and so forth than I know about.
Obviously I have no channels to the high quarters of CIA or anything of that sort
but I hope there's a whole of a lot of it because this is the sort of thing we've
got to do. There's no question about it."